

AUG 13 2007

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 11, 2007. Claims 1 to 15 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 9 and 11 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

All of Claims 1 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, over questions concerning the nature of the claimed "moving member" and the claimed "attaching operation". In response, the claims have been amended so as to clarify the nature of the "attaching operation", and also so as to clarify the interaction of the moving member of the ink tank with the communication member of a printing head. In answer to questions concerning how these features pertain to the drawings, one example of an attaching operation can be seen in the sequence presented by Figures 5A, 5B and 5C. Other examples are provided elsewhere in the specification. It is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under § 112.

Applicants thank the Examiner for her indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 1 to 7 and 9 to 11, subject only to the above-mentioned formal rejections under § 112. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are now fully in condition for allowance.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,908,180 (Dietl). In response, Claim 8 has been amended so as to specify that the communication member of the printing head is moved by the moving member of the ink tank in accordance with an attaching operation of the ink tank to the printing head, whereby liquid ink from

the ink storage portion of the ink tank is communicated to the printing head. It is respectfully submitted that Dietl's ink conduit 38 (which the Office Action equated to the claimed communication member) is not moved by any moving member in accordance with an attaching operation of an ink tank to a printing head, such that the rejection over Dietl should be withdrawn.

Turning finally to a formal matter involving Applicants' claim to foreign priority, it is respectfully requested for the PTO to acknowledge receipt of Applicants' priority documents. These documents were forwarded to the PTO by the International Bureau on September 5, 2005, pursuant to the International Bureau's issuance of form PCT/IB/304.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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